TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

IRELAND

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Ireland

Capital: Dublin

Population: 3,632,944 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Bertie Ahern

Official language(s) English, Gaelic

Economy: Capitalist

Religions: Roman Catholic (92%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Dublin

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, Air Lingus, British Airways

Other methods of arrival: Ship/ferry

U.S. Embassy address: 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Ireland
Tel: 353-1-668-7122/8777; FAX: 353-1-668-8698

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. Road conditions are generally very good, but once off main highways, country roads quickly become narrow and uneven. Roads are more dangerous during the summer and on holiday weekends due

ENTRY/EXIT

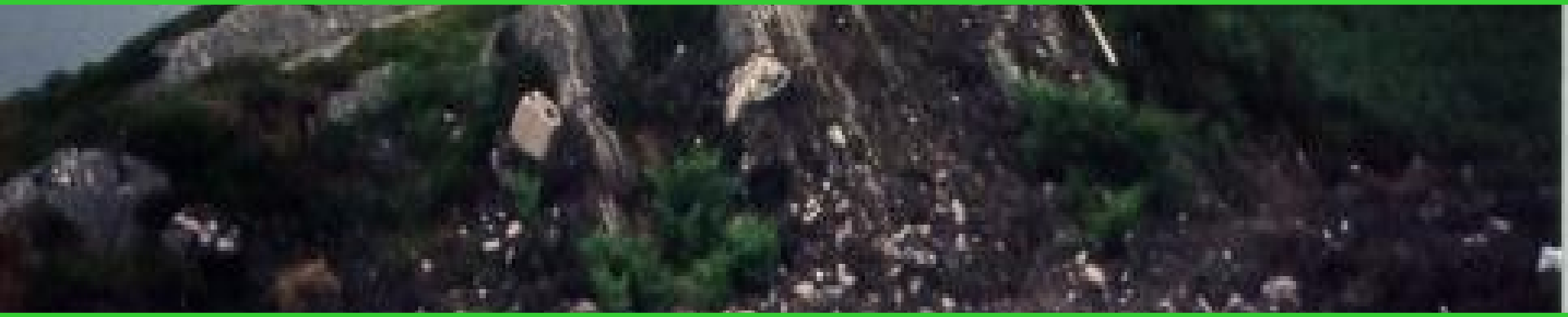
Travel Necessities: All personnel require passports. For official travel, a no-fee passport is required. Military personnel on leave require passport, ID card, and leave orders. Civilian personnel (including dependents) require a passport. A visa is not required for stays of 90 days or less. A visa is required if staying more than 90 days.

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required

Duty-free entry for used personal effects: hand tools, portable professional equipment, and other articles a visitor may reasonably require; and linens, blankets, cutlery, and other household articles imported by a person taking furnished accommodations. One hundred cigarillos (cigars of a maximum weight of three grams each), 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars or 250 grams (approximately nine ounces) of tobacco may be imported duty-free by individuals over l7 years of age.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Firearms, ammunition, and explosives are prohibited. Introduction of domestic animals is prohibited. Animals will be subject to quarantine except those being transported from the UK. Taxis are widely available and reasonably priced. Urban bus service is generally adequate, though many buses are overcrowded and frequently late. Intercity bus and train services are reasonably good.



Amembassy operating hours are 0830-1700L Mon-Fri. The following holidays will be observed in Ireland: 1 Jan; 17 Mar; Good Friday and Easter Monday; the first Monday of June and August; the last Monday of October; and 25 and 26 Dec. Also, US government holidays are observed by Amembassy Dublin.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: There are no restrictions on US imports. No restrictions on export of money (except gold coins) to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Rate: Approximate: .81 Irish Punt for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution.
Availability of medical services: Good.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Ireland.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: Personnel may be quarantined if entering from an area where hoof-and-mouth disease is present.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Ireland. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

There is a history of terrorist violence related to the political situation in Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom. US citizens are not the target of this violence. However, since the cease-fire in August 1994 terrorist incidents in Northern Ireland have all but ceased and the danger of acts of violence spilling over into the Republic of Ireland decreased accordingly. The police and military security profile in the border areas has also decreased. Drinking water and milk are safe for consumption in Ireland. Driving is on the left side of the road in Ireland, and motorists without experience in left-drive countries should be particularly cautious. Tourists driving on the wrong side of the road are the cause of several

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Ireland has a low rate of violent crime. There is a high incidence of petty crime, mostly theft, burglary, and purse snatching, and tourists are particular targets. Rental cars are also targeted by thieves. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Ireland is strict on: Firearms.

WEATHER

http://cnn

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is required (including entry and departure). Wearing of military clothing is not permitted, except for transiting aircrews. Winter clothing is worn all year. Gortex or other rain gear is highly recommended during all seasons.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

IRELAND